

DYNAMITE #3

CULLEN BUNN

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THE Shadow[®]



THE Shadow®

WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS
IN THE HEARTS OF MEN?

THE SHADOW KNOWS!

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IT IS *RARE* FOR ME TO BEGIN
AN INVESTIGATION WITHOUT
HAVING A *REASONABLE* IDEA
OF WHAT LIES AHEAD OF ME.

"*BE PREPARED*".

THE SLOGAN FOR
THE FLEDGLING
ORGANIZATION OF
BOY SCOUTS.

IT COULD JUST AS
EASILY HAVE BEEN
THE *MOTTO* FOR
THE *ILLUSIONISTS*
OF THE WORLD.

TO BE A
GREAT MAGICIAN
OR AN ESCAPIST
REQUIRES
PRACTICE AND
PREPARATION.

TAKE HARRY,
FOR INSTANCE.

THE GREAT
HOUDINI.

DURING HIS
PERFORMANCES...
RIGHT BEFORE HE
ENTERED SOME
DEATHTRAP...

...HE WOULD STEEL
HIS RESOLVE
WITH A *KISS*
FROM HIS WIFE.

OF COURSE,
THIS IS WHEN BESS
WOULD PASS A
LOCK PICK FROM
HER MOUTH TO HIS.



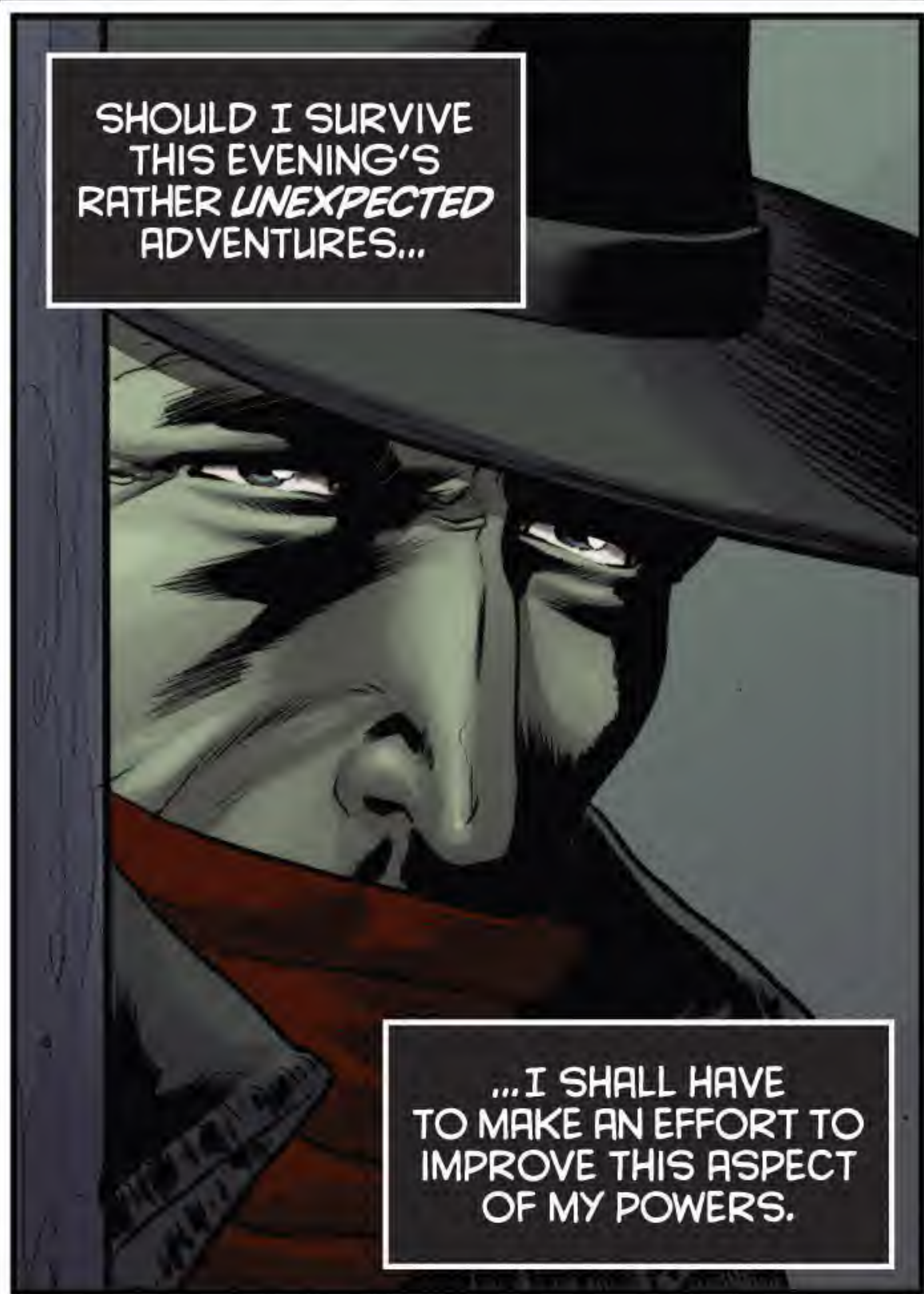
NEEDLESS TO SAY,
I WAS NOT FULLY
PREPARED FOR
WHAT I FOUND
HERE TONIGHT.

NEVER BEFORE
HAVE I TRIED TO
CLOUD THE MINDS
OF AN ANIMAL.

THE RESULTS
ARE...*NOT*
PERFECT.



SHOULD I SURVIVE
THIS EVENING'S
RATHER *UNEXPECTED*
ADVENTURES...



...I SHALL HAVE
TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO
IMPROVE THIS ASPECT
OF MY POWERS.



ALTHOUGH
TONIGHT'S SUBJECTS
SEEM TO HAVE RATHER
DIFFERENT PLANS...

...THAT *DON'T*
INCLUDE MY
SURVIVAL.



HRAH
HRAH
HRAH

I LOATHE HAVING
TO USE SUCH
LETHAL MEASURES
AGAINST ANIMALS...


BLAM
BLAM

BLAM
BLAM

...BUT THEY
ARE LEAVING
ME WITH NO
ALTERNATIVES.



SHINK



THE QUESTION
NOW IS WHETHER
CROWLEY SET ME UP.

WAS HE HOPING THAT
THESE CREATURES
WOULD KILL ME...



...OR WERE THEY
REPRESENTING
"OTHER" PARTIES?



THE LIVES THESE
BEASTS LED...

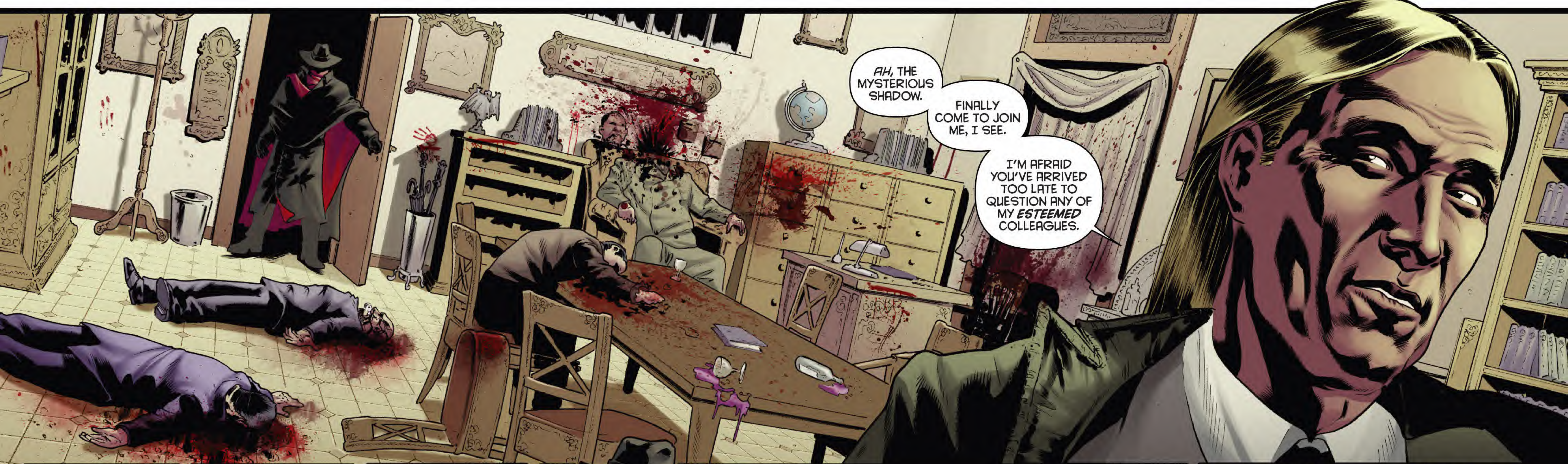
...THE PAIN AND
TORTURE THEY
ENDURED...



WHAT SORT OF
MONSTER COULD DO
SUCH THINGS TO A
LIVING CREATURE?



LET'S SEE
WHAT FURTHER
SURPRISES
AWAIT ME.



AH, THE MYSTERIOUS SHADOW.

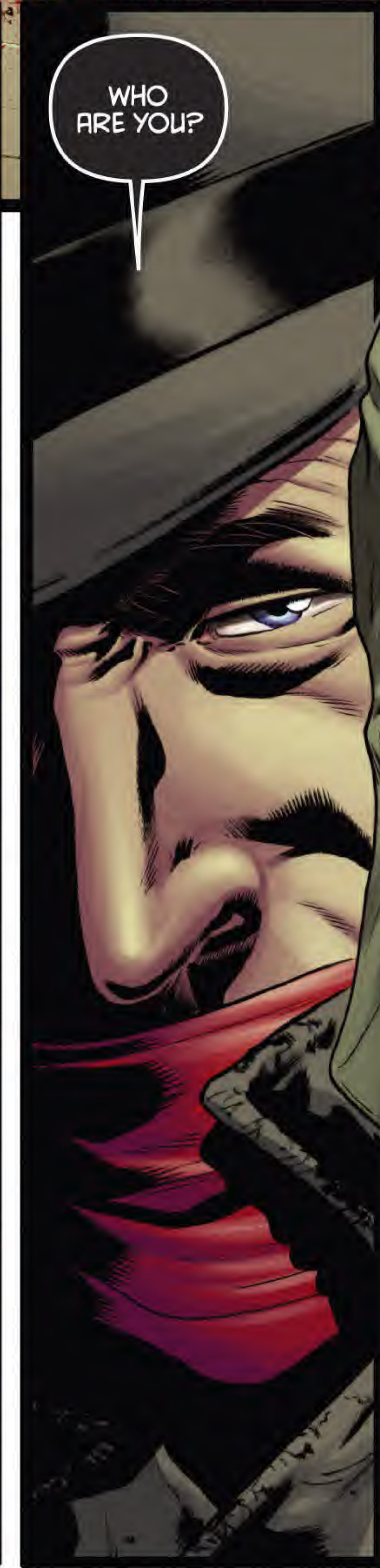
FINALLY COME TO JOIN ME, I SEE.

I'M AFRAID YOU'VE ARRIVED TOO LATE TO QUESTION ANY OF MY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES.



A SHAME ABOUT BUSTER AND CHARLIE.

BUT THEY ARE EASILY REPLACED.



WHO ARE YOU?



OH?

ARE NAMES IMPORTANT TO YOU NOW?

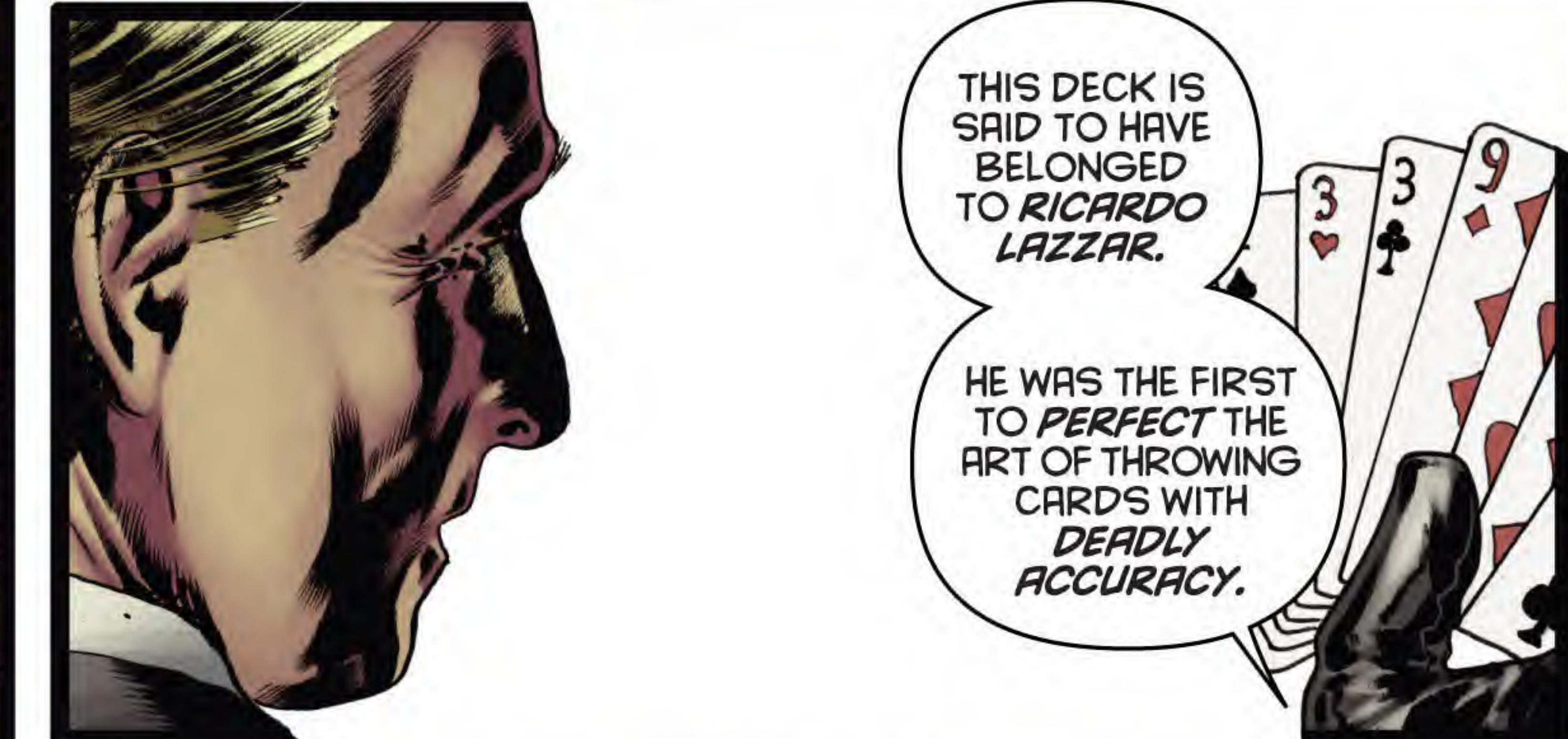
AND IF I ASKED FOR YOUR NAME-- YOUR *TRUE* NAME-- WOULD YOU GIVE IT WILLINGLY?



I *DOUBT* YOU WOULD.

AND SO, I'LL CALL YOU *THE SHADOW*.

AND YOU CAN CALL ME *THE SANDMAN*.



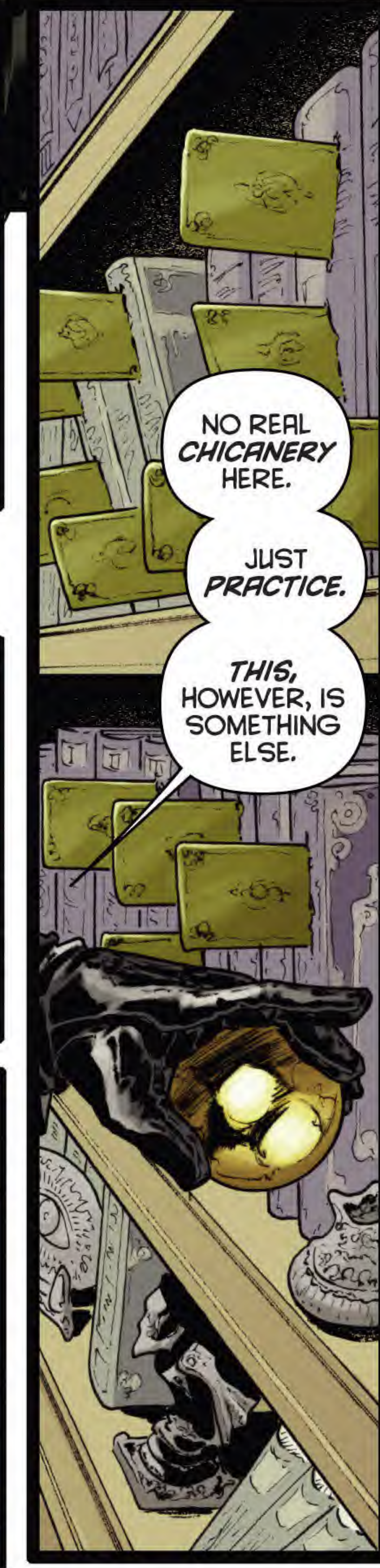
THIS DECK IS SAID TO HAVE BELONGED TO RICARDO LAZZAR.

HE WAS THE FIRST TO *PERFECT* THE ART OF THROWING CARDS WITH *DEADLY ACCURACY*.



NOT THAT HIS NAME IS KNOWN OUTSIDE THE HALLS OF MAGIC.

HE CHOSE TO WALK A PATH THAT, WERE HE ALIVE TODAY, WOULD HAVE SURELY *CROSSED* YOUR OWN.



NO REAL *CHICANERY* HERE.

JUST *PRACTICE*.

THIS, HOWEVER, IS SOMETHING ELSE.



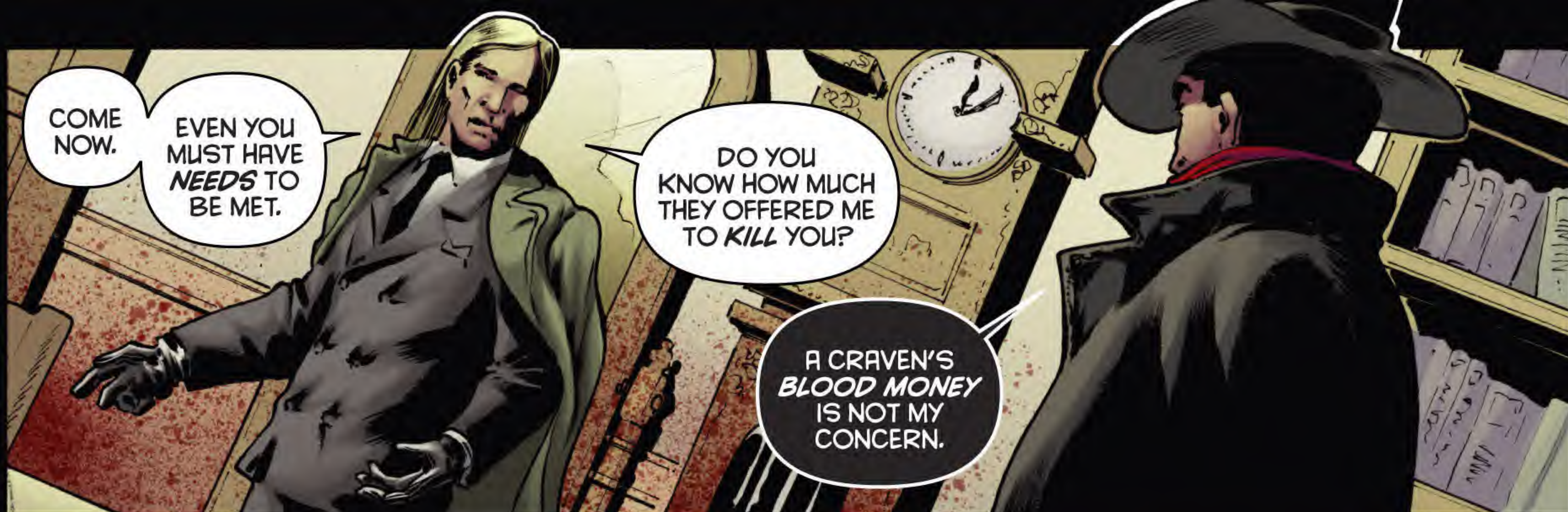
IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD OPEN A PORTAL DIRECTLY TO *HELL*, THROUGH WHICH DEMONS WOULD COME TO OUR WORLD.

NOT *EXACTLY* A MAGIC TRICK.

ACTUALLY, IT IS JUST A FANCY *MUSIC BOX*.

BUT WITH THE PROPER PRESENTATION, AN AUDIENCE WILL BELIEVE *ANYTHING*.





COME NOW.

EVEN YOU MUST HAVE **NEEDS** TO BE MET.

DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THEY OFFERED ME TO **KILL** YOU?

A CRAVEN'S **BLOOD MONEY** IS NOT MY CONCERN.



\$250,000.

PAID IN **CASH**.

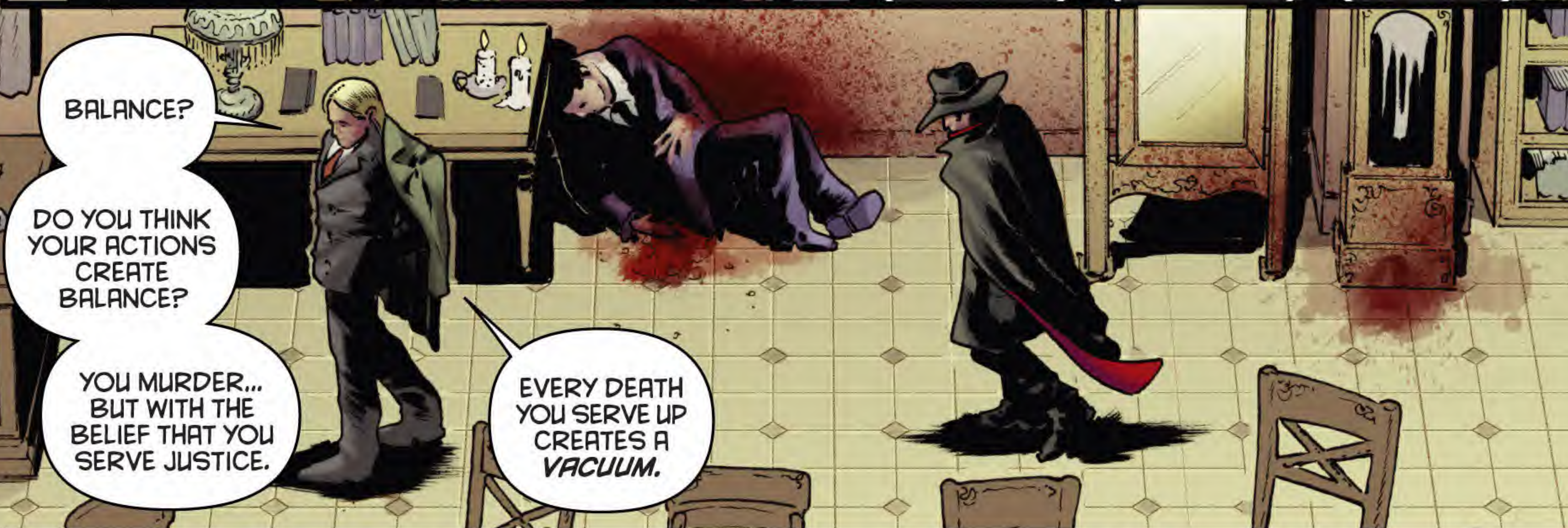
THANKS TO MY NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES, MY SISTER AND HER SON NOW HAVE A HOME IN ARGENTINA.

BUT YOU DON'T CARE TO HEAR TALES OF MY FAMILY NOR OUR FINANCIAL STANDING.

YOUR CONCERN FOR YOUR FAMILY IS **UPLIFTING**...

...BUT YOU TRADE IN **DEATH** AND **MURDER**...

...AND THOSE SCALES MUST BE **BALANCED**.



BALANCE?

DO YOU THINK YOUR ACTIONS CREATE BALANCE?

YOU MURDER... BUT WITH THE BELIEF THAT YOU SERVE JUSTICE.

EVERY DEATH YOU SERVE UP CREATES A **VACUUM**.



NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM. AS DOES SOCIETY.

MORE WILL ASCEND AND FIGHT TO FILL THE HOLES YOUR BULLETS LEAVE BEHIND.

THESE MEN WERE NOT KILLED BECAUSE OF YOUR **SENSE OF JUSTICE**...

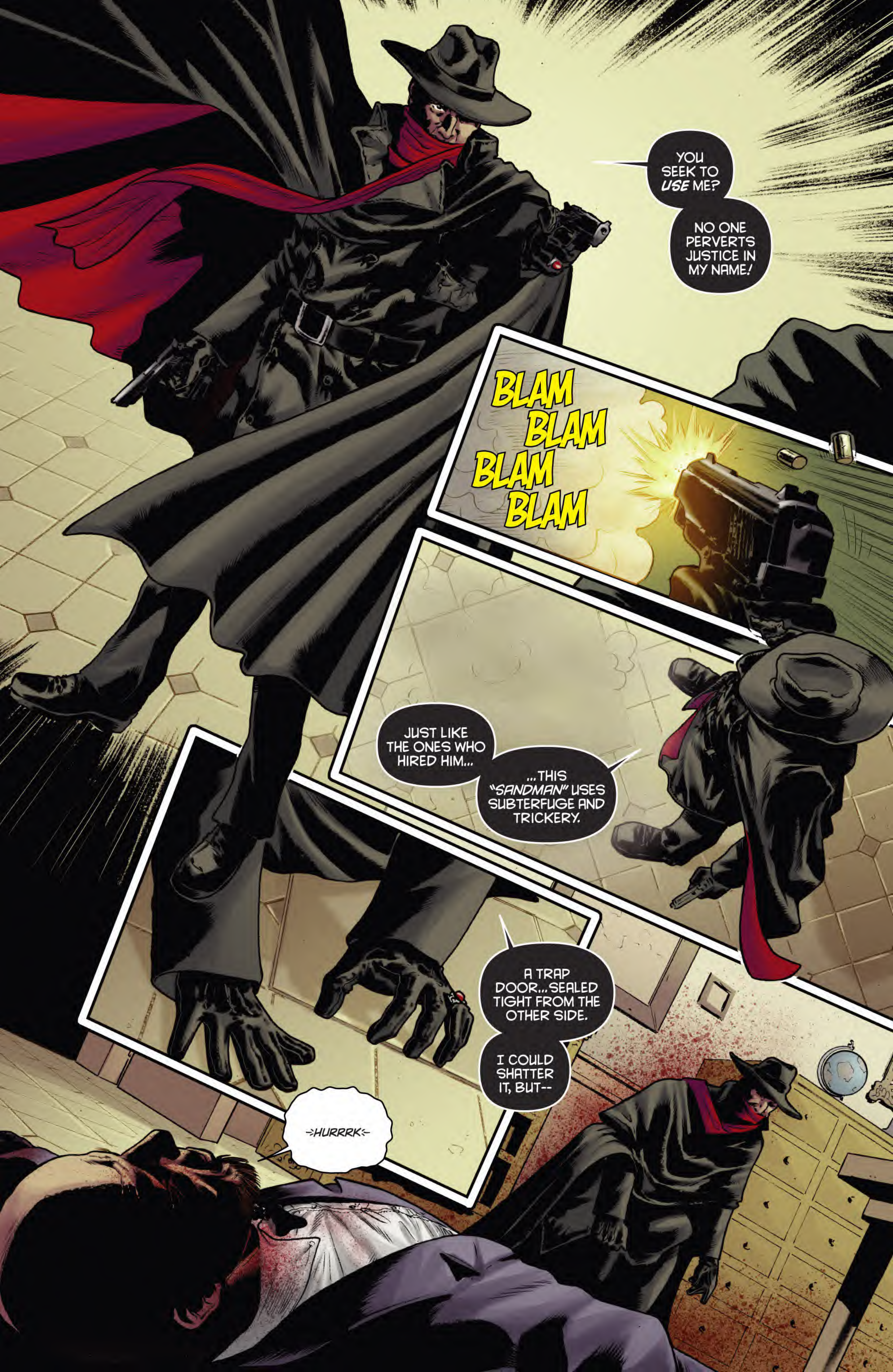


...NOR DID THEY DIE BECAUSE OF MY **BUSINESS PRACTICES**...

...AND YET THEIR CORPSES SUGGEST THAT OUR GOALS MAY HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN EITHER OF US THOUGHT.

WE BOTH NEED TO DISCOVER WHO KILLED THESE MEN.

I SHALL ENJOY USING YOU AND YOUR METHODS TO HELP ME ACHIEVE MY ENDGAME.



YOU
SEEK TO
USE ME?

NO ONE
PERVERTS
JUSTICE IN
MY NAME!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

JUST LIKE
THE ONES WHO
HIRED HIM...

... THIS
"SANDMAN" USES
SUBTERFUGE AND
TRICKERY.

A TRAP
DOOR... SEALED
TIGHT FROM THE
OTHER SIDE.

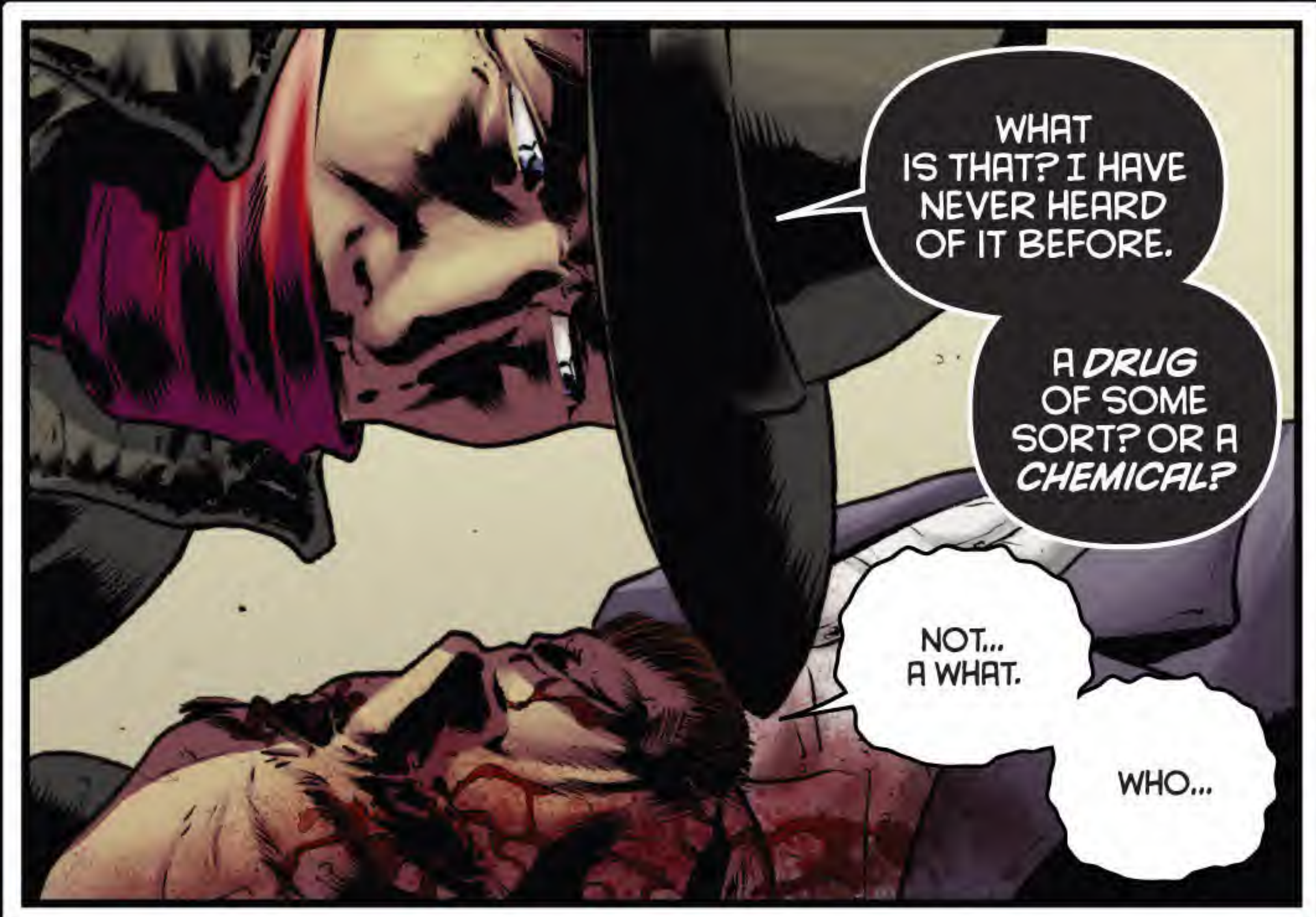
I COULD
SHATTER
IT, BUT--

=>HURRRK<=



NITOCRIS...

NITOCRIS?



WHAT IS THAT? I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF IT BEFORE.

A *DRUG* OF SOME SORT? OR A *CHEMICAL*?

NOT... A WHAT.

WHO...



...HARRY...

...HE KNEW...



NITOCRIS.

A NAME THAT WARRANTS FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

I WONDER IF THE SANDMAN HEARD ANY OF THAT.

NO DOUBT I HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF HIM.



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.

AND HE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT HE HAS NOT SEEN THE LAST OF ME.

MR. CRANSTON--IT IS AN *HONOR* TO MEET YOU.

I WAS TOLD THAT YOU WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE A SIZABLE DONATION TO THE ARCHEOLOGY DEPARTMENT.

IT ISN'T OFTEN MONEY COMES IN THE DOOR LOOKING FOR ME.

USUALLY I HAVE TO *BEG AND PLEAD* FOR FUNDING.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A PATRON OF THE ARTS AND EDUCATION, PROFESSOR TIBBERT.

I BELIEVE THAT THOSE WITH THE MEANS SHOULD ALWAYS CONTRIBUTE TO THOSE WITHOUT IT.

IT IS WHAT MAKES US A *CIVILIZED* SOCIETY.

A PLEASURE TO HEAR IT.

SO HOW CAN I HELP YOU TODAY? OTHER THAN BY ACCEPTING YOUR MONEY, OF COURSE.

IN MY EXPERIENCE, SUCH GESTURES ALWAYS COME WITH A *REQUEST*.

YOU *WOUND* ME, PROFESSOR.

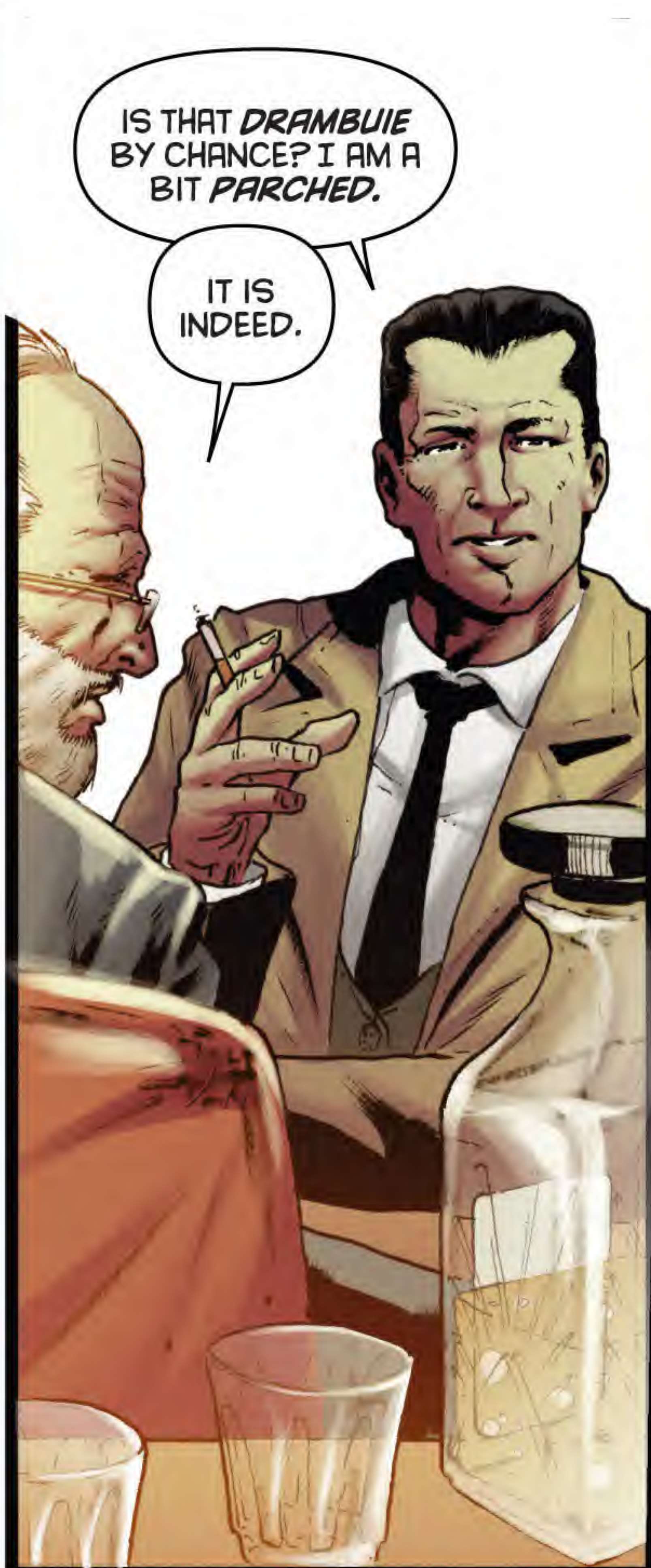
I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT AS MEN OF EDUCATION, WE COULD PERIODICALLY DISCUSS SUCH THINGS.

IN NO WAY IS IT A REQUIREMENT OF MY PLEDGE.



I DON'T HAVE ANOTHER CLASS FOR AN HOUR.

IS THERE SOME PARTICULAR TOPIC YOU WISH TO DISCUSS THIS AFTERNOON?



IS THAT *DRAMBUIE* BY CHANCE? I AM A BIT *PARCHED*.

IT IS INDEED.



I DO HAVE AN INTEREST IN *EGYPTIAN LORE*.

THERE IS A FIGURE I HAVE HEARD BY NAME, BUT DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT.

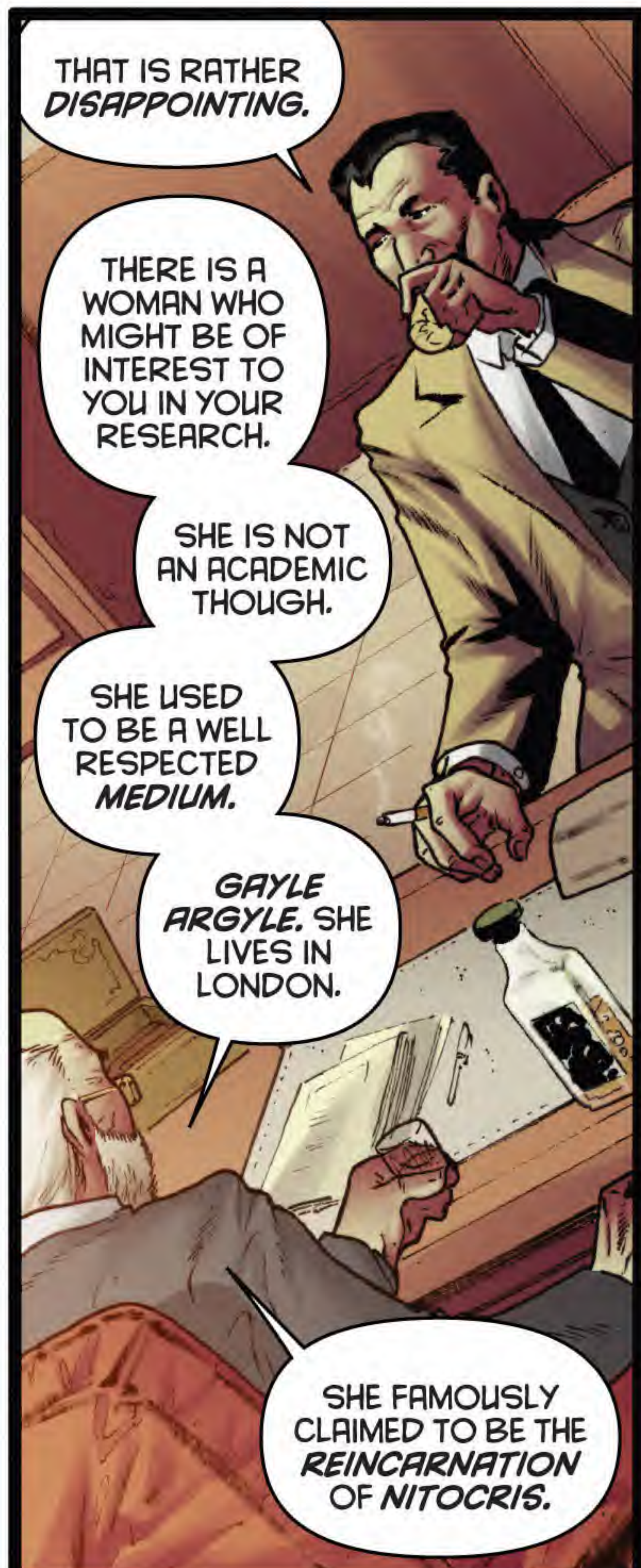
PERHAPS YOU KNOW SOMETHING OF *NITOCRIS*?

NITOCRIS, YOU SAY?



I KNOW SHE WAS AN *EGYPTIAN QUEEN*.

BEYOND THAT I COULDN'T GIVE YOU ANY DETAILS ABOUT HER LIFE OR WHO SHE WAS.



THAT IS RATHER *DISAPPOINTING*.

THERE IS A WOMAN WHO MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO YOU IN YOUR RESEARCH.

SHE IS NOT AN ACADEMIC THOUGH.

SHE USED TO BE A WELL RESPECTED *MEDIUM*.

GAYLE ARGYLE. SHE LIVES IN LONDON.

SHE FAMOUSLY CLAIMED TO BE THE *REINCARNATION* OF *NITOCRIS*.



PROFESSOR *TIBBERT*, I HOPE WE CAN HAVE A *LONG* AND *FRUITFUL* ASSOCIATION.

FOR NOW, THOUGH, IT APPEARS I HAVE SOME *TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS* TO MAKE.



76 TROTTER'S LANE.



YOU MIGHT AS WELL COME OUT NOW.

THIS *TEA* ISN'T GOING TO STAY *WARM* ALL NIGHT.



GAYLE ARGYLE...

...I COME HERE SEEKING JUSTICE--

JUSTICE FOR HOUDINI?

YES, YES. I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

AND ABOUT YOU.



GAYLE KNOWS WHAT *SECRETS* LIE IN THE HEARTS OF MEN, DEARIE.

I WOULD OFFER TO TAKE YOUR SCARF, HAT, AND COAT...



...BUT SOMEHOW I DOUBT YOU WOULD BE *AGREEABLE* TO THAT, WOULD YOU?



SO WHAT BRINGS YOU TO MY SITTING ROOM?

I COULD BE *PRESUMPTUOUS* AND TELL YOU, BUT I SENSE YOU PREFER DOING THINGS YOUR WAY.



IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT THE
RUMORS OF YOUR
PSYCHIC ABILITIES
ARE TRUE.

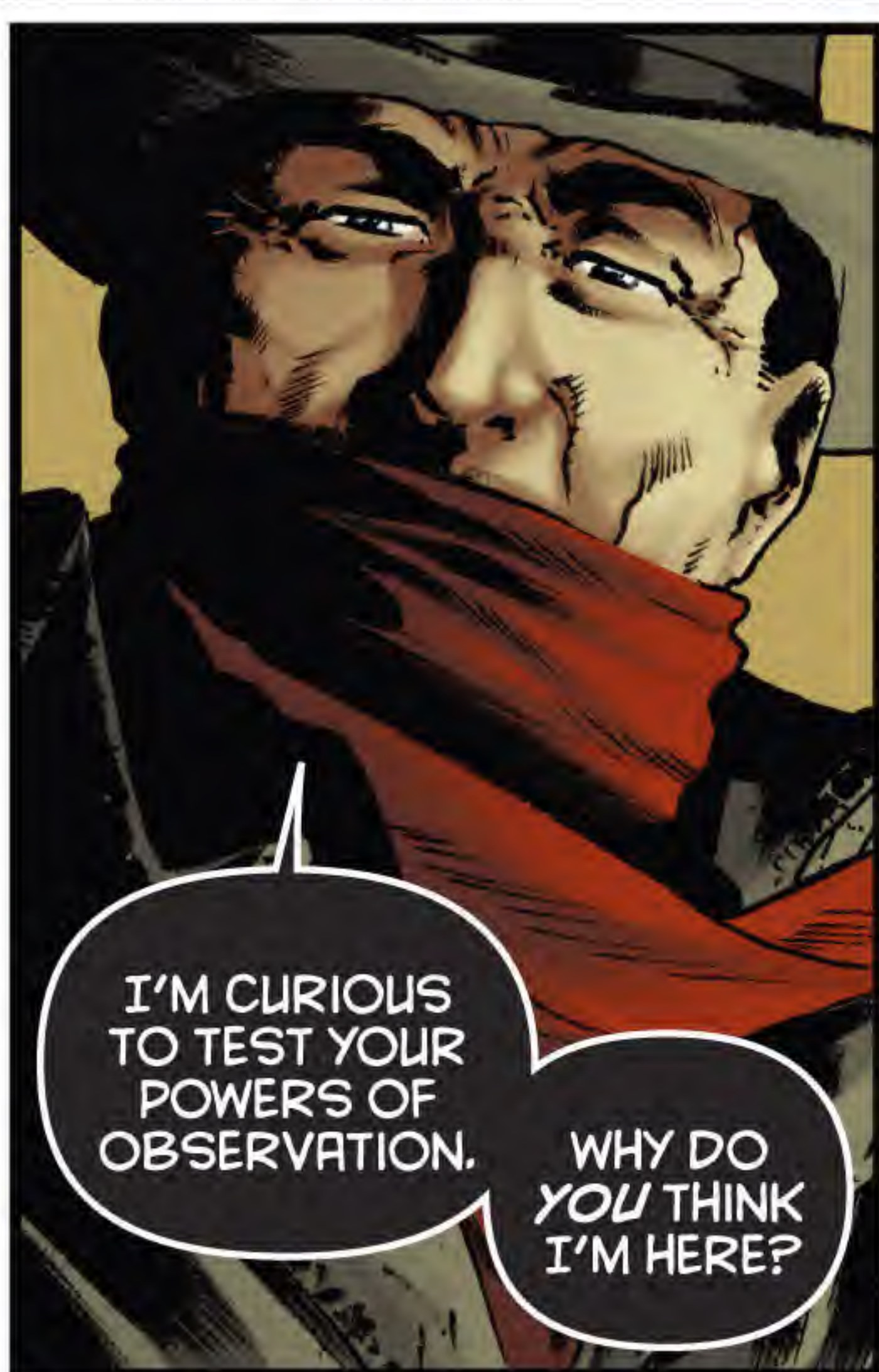


HEAVENS,
NO.

I AM SIMPLY A
VERY *OBSERVANT*
PERSON...NOT
SO DIFFERENT
FROM *YOU*.

I DON'T GO AROUND
LEAPING FROM MOVING
CARS, SHOOTING
AT RUFFIANS AND
HOOLIGANS WHILE
DODGING BULLETS.

BUT WE BOTH
KNOW THAT IS
ONLY PART OF
WHAT YOU DO.



I'M CURIOUS
TO TEST YOUR
POWERS OF
OBSERVATION.

WHY DO
YOU THINK
I'M HERE?



HARRY'S DEATH WAS
A *TRAGEDY*, WASN'T
IT? ONE THAT, I'M
AFRAID, CONTINUES
TO PLAY OUT TO
THIS DAY.

IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN PLEASANT
TO THINK THIS
FOUL BUSINESS
ENDED WITH THE
KIDNAPPING OF
HIS DEAR WIFE,
BESS.

BUT WE
BOTH KNOW
THAT'S NOT
TRUE.



YOU KNOW
ABOUT
HOLDINI'S
WIDOW?

I KNOW THE
*SOCIETY OF UNITED
MAGICIANS* BELIEVED
SHE UNDERSTOOD
HARRY'S SECRETS...

...SECRETS
HE PASSED
ON *AFTER
DEATH*...



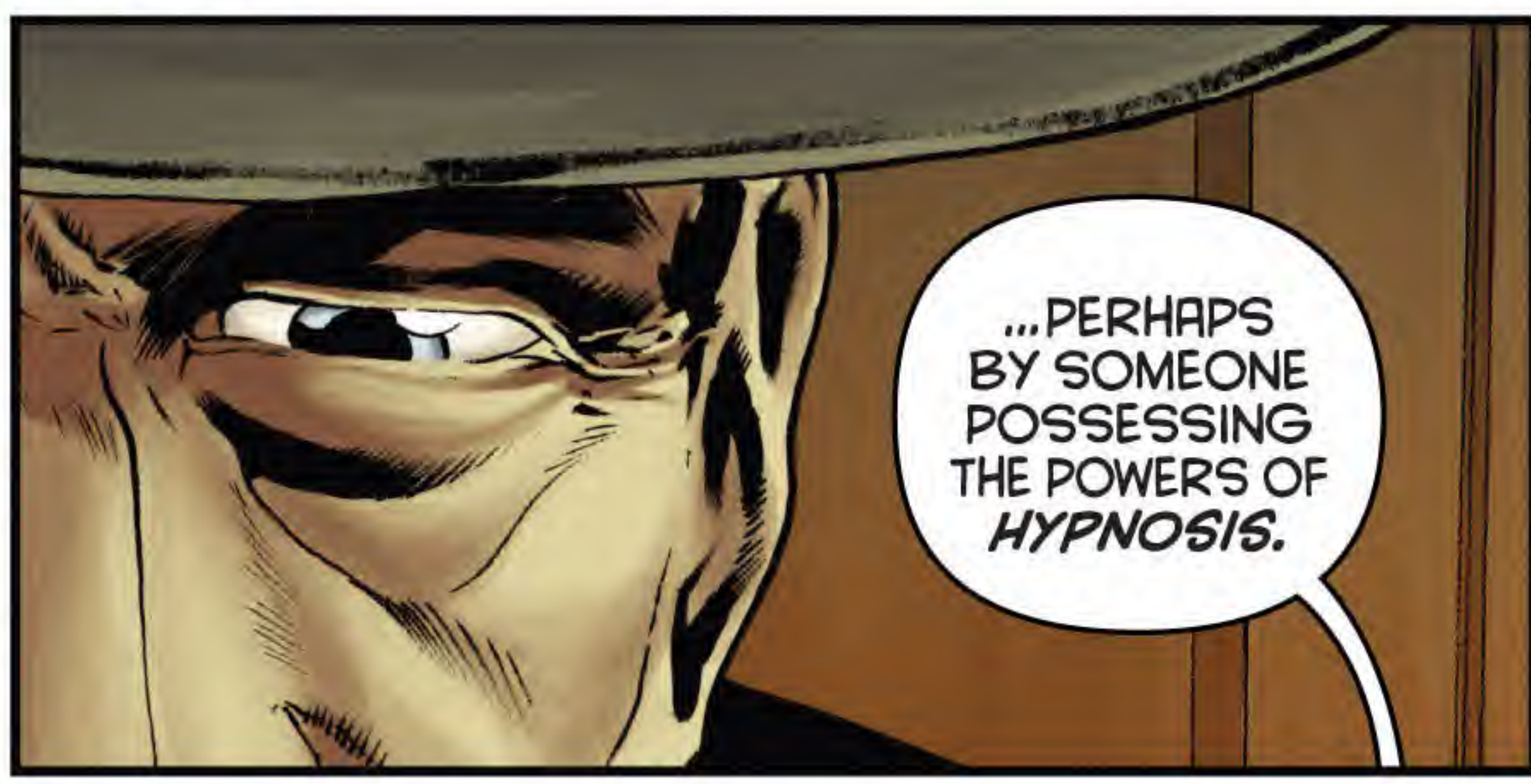
...AND THEY
WERE WILLING TO
DO ALL MANNER OF
TERRIBLE THINGS
TO GET HER
TO TALK.



PERHAPS SHE *DID* KNOW SOMETHING.

MAYBE HARRY VISITED HER AFTER HIS *DEMISE*.

BUT I SUSPECT THAT KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN *BLOCKED* FROM HER MIND...



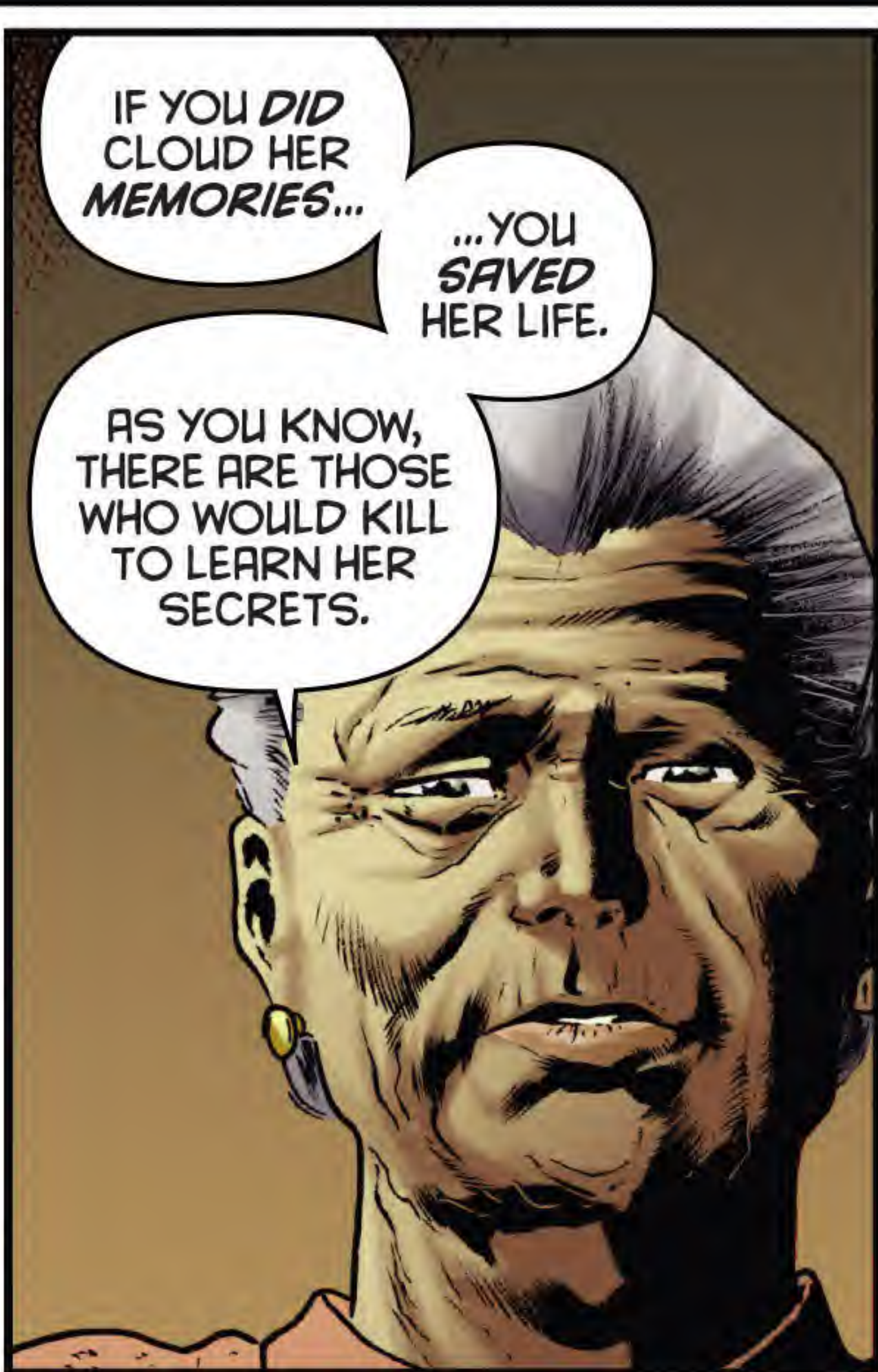
...PERHAPS BY SOMEONE POSSESSING THE POWERS OF *HYPNOSIS*.



I ADMIT, I HAVE... *ASSOCIATES*... WHO ARE KEEPING AN EYE ON BESS.

WHEN SHE SAYS SHE WAS NOT CONTACTED BY HER HUSBAND'S SPIRIT...

...SHE GENUINELY *BELIEVES* IT.



IF YOU *DID* CLOUD HER *MEMORIES*...

...YOU *SAVED* HER LIFE.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD KILL TO LEARN HER SECRETS.



BUT THERE ARE ALSO THOSE WHO WOULD KILL TO MAKE SURE THE LAST ILLUSION *REMAINS* A *MYSTERY*.

YOU ARE SPEAKING ABOUT YOURSELF.

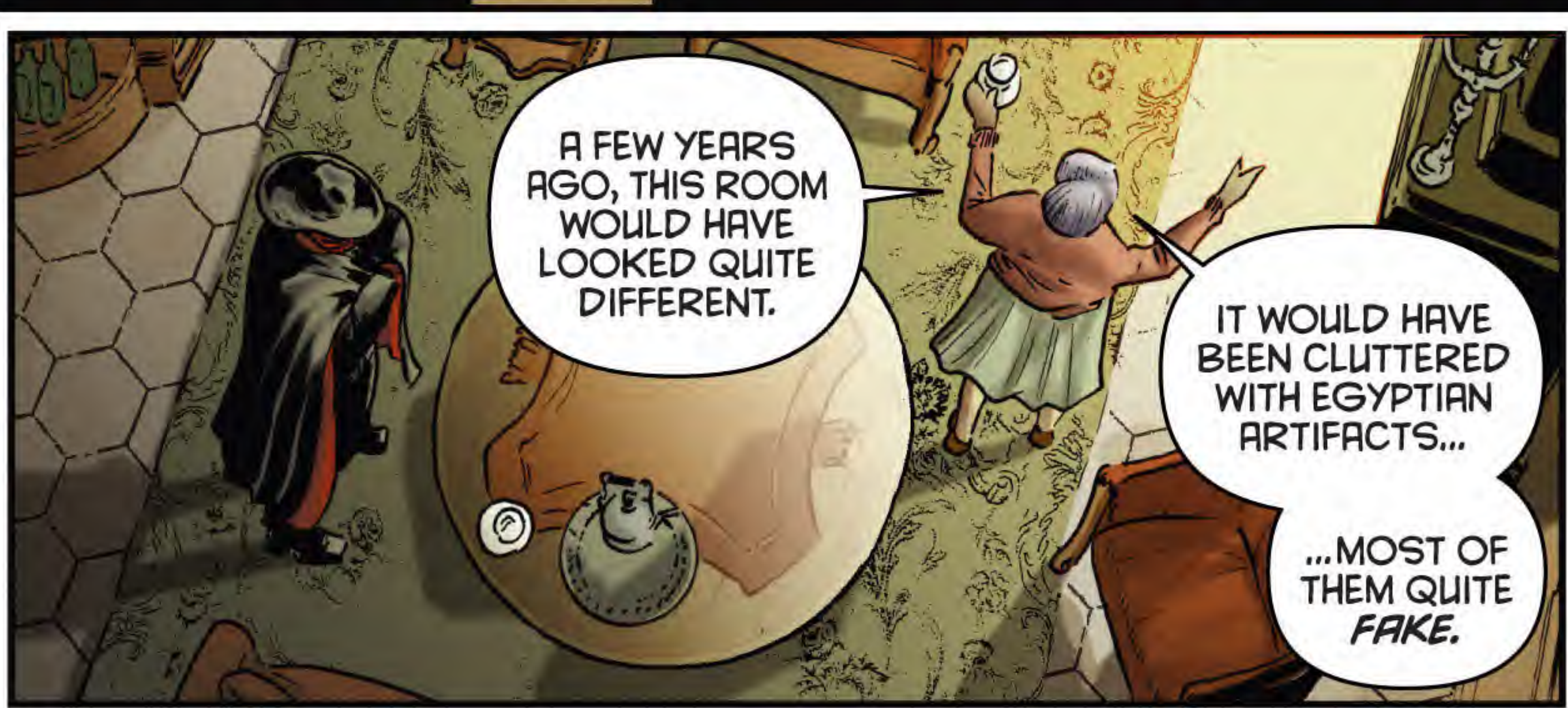


MYSELF... YES.

AND MY ASSOCIATES.

THERE IS MORE THAN *ONE* ORDER OF MAGICIANS...

...AND OUR AGENDAS ARE *REMARKABLY* DIFFERENT.



A FEW YEARS AGO, THIS ROOM WOULD HAVE LOOKED QUITE DIFFERENT.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CLUTTERED WITH EGYPTIAN ARTIFACTS...

...MOST OF THEM QUITE *FAKE*.

"IN THOSE DAYS,
I CLAIMED TO BE
THE REINCARNATED
NITOCRIS..."

"...QUEEN OF EGYPT..."

"...QUEEN OF
ESOTERIC MYSTERY..."

I IMAGINE IT IS
THAT NAME THAT
BROUGHT YOU
HERE, YES?

MANY OF MY
COLLEAGUES...AND
ALL OF MY ENEMIES...
STILL CALL ME BY
THAT NAME.

IN THOSE
DAYS, HARRY
AND I WERE
RIVALS.

HIS **WORRISOME**
HABIT OF DEBUNKING
SPIRITUALISTS
CAUSED ME A BIT OF
EMBARRASSMENT.

BUT WE
RESPECTED
EACH OTHER.

I LIKE
TO THINK IT WAS
THAT RESPECT
TO HARRY'S USE
OF **NITOCRIS** IN
HIS STORY.

"ENTOMBED
WITH THE
PHARAOHS."

IT WAS
GHOSTWRITTEN, OF
COURSE, BY A FELLOW
BY THE NAME OF
LOVECRAFT.

BUT HARRY'S
INFLUENCE...AND
MINE...IS CLEAR.

I AM HERE TO
UNCOVER WHY
SOMEONE...

...YOURSELF OR
YOUR ALLIES...

...WOULD
TARGET OTHER
MAGICIANS AND
SPIRITUALISTS
FOR DEATH.

I HAVE NO
INTEREST IN A
LITERATURE
LESSON.

NO?

BUT WITHIN
MY LESSON IS THE
TRUE REASON THE
SOCIETY MUST BE
STOPPED.

ENOUGH!



I WILL DEAL WITH THE SOCIETY OF UNITED MAGICIANS.

AND I WILL NOT *TOLERATE* YOUR INTERFERENCE.

YOU WILL CALL OFF YOUR *HOUNDS*.

SUCH DEMANDS ARE, I ASSURE YOU, *POINTLESS*.



THE "*HOUNDS*" AS YOU CALL THEM HAVE ALREADY BEEN *UNLEASHED*.

IT'S FAR, FAR *TOO LATE* TO CALL THEM OFF.



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?



OUR ENEMIES RISK DESTROYING *EVERYTHING*.

SURELY THAT WARRANTS DECISIVE...

...EVEN *RUTHLESS*...



...ACTION...

*CLATTER
CLACK
CLATTER*



N-NO...



→KAKK!←



MADAME ARGYLE?

ARE YOU--

→HRRGGH!←

→KAKK!←

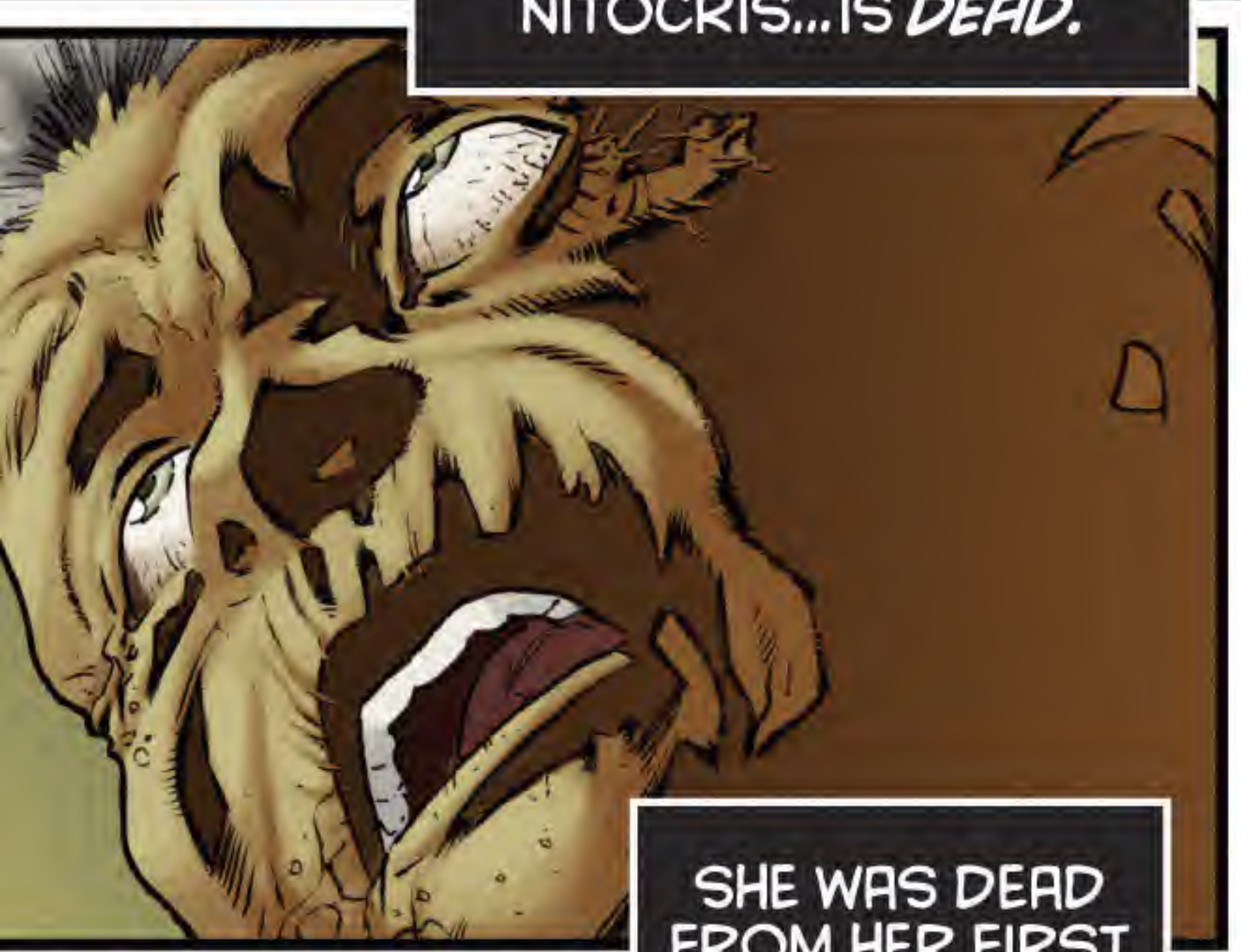


→HRRK!←





CHECKING HER PULSE
IS A *PERFUNCTORY* ACT.



GAYLE ARGYLE...THE
SELF-PROCLAIMED QUEEN
NITOCRIS...IS *DEAD*.

SHE WAS DEAD
FROM HER FIRST
SIP OF HER
EVENING TEA.



LUCKY FOR
ME...I DID NOT
INDULGE.

THE LAST ILLUSION...A
FAIRY TALE TOLD WITHIN
MAGICAL CIRCLES...

...HAS SPARKED A *WAR*...

...AND I FIND
MYSELF CAUGHT
IN THE MIDDLE.



BUT MY JUSTICE WILL BE
SWIFT...AND *BLIND* TO
THE BELIEFS ON BOTH
SIDES OF THE CONFLICT...



...AND LET NO ONE--BE
THEY MORTAL, SPIRIT,
OR GOD--ATTEMPT TO
DISSUADE ME FROM
MY CAUSE.

TO BE CONTINUED!



NEXT ISSUE:

The secrets of the Last Illusion become intertwined with the work of writer H.P. Lovecraft. What warning did Lovecraft try to pass on to Houdini before his death? Will the shocking revelation of these secrets help the Shadow... or destroy him?

DYNAMITE IN THE NEWS

NEW LAUNCHES FOR DECEMBER 2015:

THE PRECINCT #1 By Frank J. Barbiere and Crizam Zamora

In the sprawling, steampunk metropolis of the big city, it's up to one group to keep the peace and uphold the law: the officers of The Precinct! Mortimer Hill is a veteran officer who has busted his fair share of criminals, but when mechanical monsters start causing trouble, he'll need to use all his wits (and brawn) to get to the heart of the mystery. Along with his new partner, a representative from the enigmatic Alchemy Academy, Mort will face the biggest case of his career... and the most dangerous!

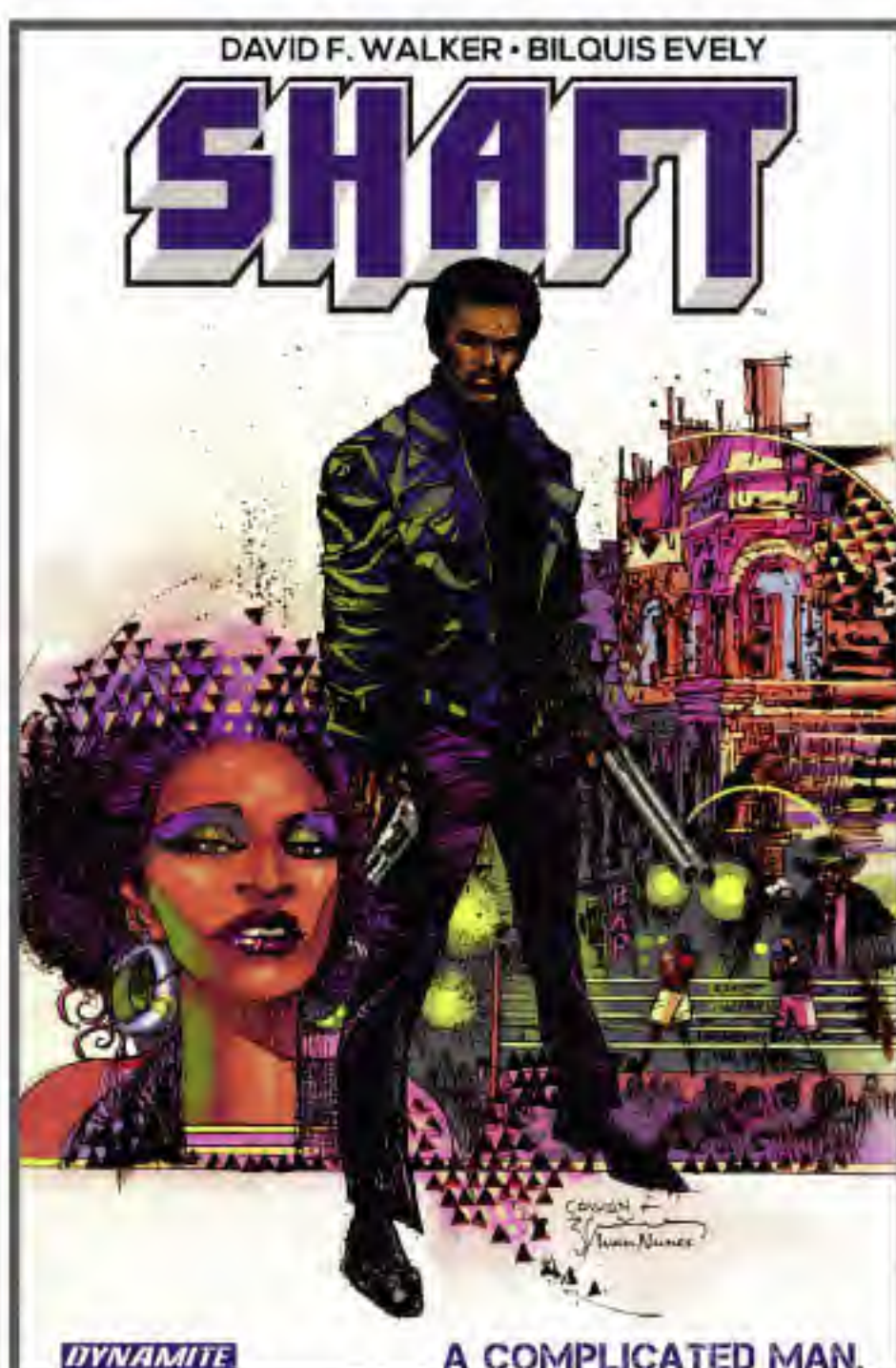
SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT #1 By Ande Parks and Esteve Polls

San Francisco, 1953. FBI Agent Thomas Jennings has just arrived in the city, fresh-faced and ready to tackle crime in the big city... he thinks. In fact, Jennings is not nearly prepared for what he's about to encounter. The city's crime lords are being systematically murdered, and the killers waiting to fill the void are the pure stuff of Jennings' nightmares. Jennings will be forced to question every belief he holds dear to protect his wife and unborn child from the madness. Gritty, sometimes depraved, crime fiction in the tradition of James Elroy, Jim Thompson and EC-era crime and horror comics from the team that brought you The Death of Zorro and The Lone Ranger.

DOC SAVAGE: THE SPIDER'S WEB #1 By Chris Roberson and Cezar Razek

While responding to a devastating earthquake in South America, Doc Savage and company discover that not only was the disaster far from natural, but that it seems to be linked to a menace that Doc faced many years before. As he begins to investigate, Doc discovers that a number of closed cases that he had considered to be isolated threats were in fact part of a larger web that he never suspected before now.

HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS | OCTOBER



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